Extinction of Folk Theatre

154. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that, "swaang" an age old tradition of staging folk theatre in the country is now almost extinct ;

(b) whether Government have identified the reasons therefor and if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to issue guidelines, if any, to the state Governments to revive it ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to provide any grant to the States for this purpose, if so, the quantum thereof, State-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) In view of (a) above, it does not arise. However, Swaang, a traditional theatre form, is very popular in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Sangeet Natak Akademi has recorded Swaang performances for its archives in 1971 & 1989. The Akademi also presented Swaang in its prestigious annual Lok Utsav in October 1989. The Akademi also honoured Shri Tule Ram of Haryana by the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1989 in recognition of his contribution to the Swaang.

(d) Certain schemes of Government provide financial support to voluntary organisations/bodies for promotion and propagation of different art forms including Swaang. No further grant to the States for this purpose seems necessary.

Increase in Entry Fee at Taj Mahal

155. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that entry fee to Taj Mahal has been increased from Rs. 2 per head to Rs. 10 recently ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the interests of low-budget tourists have been ignored while deciding such a hike ;

(d) whether Government propose to provide any relief to low-budget tourists in respect of Taj and other places of tourist interest elsewhere ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No, Sir. The entry fee to Taj Mahal is 50 paise only. Apart from this 50 paise which is charged by the Archaeological Survey of India, Rs. 1.50 is charged by the Agra Development Authority as Toll Tax on a separate ticket which is not entry ticket. The enhancement has been done by the Agra Development Authority by raising Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 100.

(b) Agra Development Authority has done this to increase their revenues.

(c) Yes, Sir. The interest of low-budget tourists is going to suffer by enhancing toll tax for a monument.

(d) and (e) Since the Archaeological Survey of India has not so far increased any entry fee to any of the monuments of tourist interest, the question of providing financial relief to Tourist does not arise.

Handicaps in Imparting Primary and Secondary Education

156. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our primary and secondary education suffers from several